

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method of profiling an entity, the method comprising the steps of:
  - 2 a. retrieving information from at least one information source using the entity as search
  - 3 criteria;
  - 4 b. clustering the retrieved information to identify contexts related to the entity;
  - 5 c. retrieving information corresponding to each identified context from at least one
  - 6 information source;
  - 7 d. selecting features from the information retrieved at steps a and c to identify concepts
  - 8 associated with the entity within each identified context; and
  - 9 e. structuring the identified concepts within each context.
- 1 2. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the step of structuring the identified concepts is
- 2 done by classifying the concepts into at least one of a set comprising of concepts that are
- 3 exclusive to the entity, a set comprising of concepts that are exclusive to the identified
- 4 context, a set comprising of concepts that are common to both entity and the identified
- 5 context but more representative of the entity, and a set comprising of concepts that are
- 6 common to both the entity and the identified context but more representative of the identified
- 7 context.
- 1 3. The method as recited in claim 2 further comprising the step of ranking the concepts within
- 2 each set.
- 1 4. The method as recited in claim 2 further comprising the step of presenting top ranked
- 2 concepts within each set.
- 1 5. A method of profiling an entity, the method comprising the steps of:

- 2       a. identifying contexts associated with the entity;
- 3       b. retrieving information corresponding to each identified context from at least one
- 4       information source;
- 5       c. selecting features from the retrieved information to identify concepts associated with the
- 6       entity within each identified context; and
- 7       d. structuring the identified concepts within each context.

- 1       6. The method as recited in claim 5 wherein the contexts are identified by finding prominent
- 2       nodes, that contain the entity, in an ontology or a taxonomy.
- 1       7. The method as recited in claim 5 wherein the contexts are identified by using at least one of
- 2       synonyms, hypernyms, hyponyms, and meronyms of the entity found in a thesaurus.
- 1       8. The method as recited in claim 5 wherein the contexts are identified by finding a set of the
- 2       words or phrases that occur frequently with the entity and that mutually do not appear
- 3       together in documents in the information source.

- 1       9. A system for profiling an entity, the system comprising:
  - 2       a. means for retrieving information from at least one information source using the entity as
  - 3       search criteria;
  - 4       b. means for clustering the retrieved information in order to identify contexts related to the
  - 5       entity;
  - 6       c. means for retrieving information corresponding to each identified context from at least
  - 7       one information source;
  - 8       d. means for selecting features from the retrieved information in order to identify concepts
  - 9       associated with the entity within each identified context; and

10 e. means for structuring the identified concepts within each context.

1 10. The system as recited in claim 9 wherein the means for structuring the identified concepts  
2 comprises:

3 a. means for classifying the identified concepts into sets with respect to each entity-context  
4 pair; and

5 b. means for ranking the concepts within each set.

1 11. The system as recited in claim 10 further comprising means for presenting top ranked  
2 concepts within each set.

1 12. A computer program product for profiling an entity, the computer program product  
2 comprising:

3 a. program instruction means for retrieving information from at least one information source  
4 using the entity as search criteria;

5 b. program instruction means for clustering the retrieved information in order to identify  
6 contexts related to the entity;

7 c. program instruction means for retrieving information corresponding to each identified  
8 context from at least one information source;

9 d. program instruction means for selecting features from the retrieved information in order to  
10 identify concepts associated with the entity within each identified context; and

11 e. program instruction means for structuring the identified concepts within each context.

1 13. The computer program product as recited in claim 12 wherein the program instruction means  
2 for structuring the identified concepts comprises:

3       a. program instruction means for classifying the identified concepts into sets with respect to  
4       each entity-context pair; and

5       b. program instruction means for ranking the concepts within each set.

1       14. The computer program product as recited in claim 13 further comprising program instruction  
2       means for presenting top ranked concepts within each set.

1       15. A method of profiling an entity, the method comprising the steps of:

2       a. retrieving information from at least one information source using the entity as search  
3       criteria;

4       b. clustering the retrieved information to identify contexts;

5       c. retrieving information corresponding to the entity and each identified context from at least  
6       one information source;

7       d. selecting features from the retrieved information to identify concepts associated with the  
8       entity within each identified context;

9       e. classifying the identified concepts into sets with respect to each identified entity context  
10      pair;

11      f. ranking the concepts within each set; and

12      g. presenting top ranked concepts within each set.

1       16. The method as recited in claim 15 wherein the concepts are classified into at least one of a set  
2       comprising of concepts that are exclusive to the entity, a set comprising of concepts that are  
3       exclusive to the identified context, a set comprising of concepts that are common to both  
4       entity and the identified context but more representative of the entity, and a set comprising of  
5       concepts that are common to both the entity and the identified context but more representative  
6       of the identified context.